



***Vermont State Employees' Wellness Program
2020 Flu Immunizations for Vermont State Employees***

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1. What will be different about this year's clinic?

- **You will be required to wear a facemask at the flu clinic.** If you cannot wear one due to a medical/other reason, we respectfully request that you do not attend these clinics. You can get a flu shot at any pharmacy that accepts Express Scripts (the State's pharmacy vendor). If it is not the pharmacy you regularly use, then you should bring your Express Scripts card. The shot is 100% covered by your State health insurance. However, some providers charge for the administration of the shot. Check with your provider's office before your appointment.
- **Preregistration is mandatory to get a shot at a State of VT clinic. Due to COVID-19 and the need to maintain physical distance and avoid the gathering of people, we cannot accommodate walk-ins as we have in years past.**
- Please come just before your appointment time. Appointments are spaced to allow for physical distancing and to avoid groups of people gathering.
- You will be prescreened for COVID-19 and get a temperature check prior to entering the clinic. Anyone with a temperature ≥ 100.4 or who has symptoms or has recently been exposed will not be allowed to enter the clinic.
- Staff at the clinic will be wearing appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and will be sanitizing certain work areas more frequently

2. Who is eligible?

- All active permanent and temporary VT state employees
- Due to COVID-19, flu clinics are not open to VT State Retirees, employees of the VSEA, Arts Council, Historical Society and Sheriffs and State's Attorneys
- Contractors, agency employees, teachers, spouses, and dependents are not eligible.

3. How do I schedule an appointment?

- You can register online at www.kinneydrugs.com/livewellvermont
- If you do not have computer access, you can register by phone at:
1-855-Flu-Fite (358-3483) M-F: 8 AM – 4:30 PM

4. What information do I need to register?

The required fields of information are as follows:

- Clinic Location, Date and Time
- Name (First and Last)
- Phone Number
- Email Address (Required for online registration)
- Date of Birth
- Employee ID # (Required for Active and SOV Temporary employees only))
- Employment Status: Permanent Active or Temporary (SOV)
- **Primary Insurance**
 - BCBSVT with State of VT as your employer, Medicare, Tricare/Martin's Point or Other
 - If you are covered by BCBSVT under Health Connect or with another company, you should write "Other".
 - Some active employees may have Medicare Part A as well as other insurance such as BCBSVT. If they are still working, then BCBSVT or their other insurance would be the primary insurance.

- TRICARE/Martin's Point (Veteran's Insurance-may be Retiree, Active, Temporary or a member of a Special Group). We will need your ID # from the back of your card.
- Click "Complete Registration". Once you complete your appointment, you will get a confirmation email which gives you links to the Influenza Vaccine Information Sheet (VIS), Clinic Directions and a FAQ, You can also change or cancel your appointment from this confirmation email. New this year is an e-consent system. Follow the steps to complete this online. If the e-consent system is unavailable, you will have the option to download and print out your consent form ahead. Do that and bring it with you to save time. If you forget, no worries. We will have blank forms at the site.
- You can also add your appointment to your iCal, Outlook or Google calendar after you complete your registration or from your confirmation email. **Please note that all your registration information may be accessed through the live link on your calendar appointment. This includes your Employee ID #, DOB, Address and any insurance information you provide. We strongly recommend that you delete any information from your calendar that you do not want to be visible.**

5. Why do you need my Tricare number?

- Our vendor, Kinney Drugs, is a designated health provider and is approved to bill Medicare/Tricare for flu vaccines. To bill Tricare accurately, we will need you to fill out a form and provide the appropriate information from your card for Kinney Drugs to bill for your shot.

6. What do I need to bring to my appointment?

- You need to bring a face covering. You will not be allowed into the clinic without one. If you cannot wear a face covering due to a medical issue, we request that you get your shot at a local pharmacy/your PCP.
- Tricare/Martin's Point members should bring their ID card to the clinic. We need information from your card to correctly bill for your shot.
- Please wear a short-sleeve shirt for easier access to your upper arm.

7. Do I need to use leave or sick time to attend?

- Employees can attend on paid "state work time." There will be no mileage reimbursement. Please coordinate with your supervisor/manager to attend.

8. Is there a cost to me for the shot?

- There are NO out-of-pocket expenses or co-pay for eligible participants. Medicare/Tricare will be billed by our vendor for eligible employees.

9. Will you accept walk-ins?

- No. Due to COVID-19 and the need to maintain physical distance and prevent people crowding, we cannot accommodate walk-ins. Pre-registration for all clinics is mandatory.

10. How do I cancel my appointment date and/or time?

- If you registered online, your confirmation email has a link for you to cancel your appointment. You can also cancel by phone through the registration number at 1-888-Flu-Fite (358-3483).

11. How do I reschedule my appointment date and/or time?

- If you registered online, your confirmation email has a link for you to reschedule your appointment. You can reschedule either online or the phone registration number at 1-888-Flu-Fite (358-3483).

12. Is my information secure?

- All client information is protected under strict HIPAA privacy regulations and the website is SSL secured. **Important to note:** If you choose to add your flu appointment to your calendar, all registration information may be accessed through the live link. This includes your name, address, DOB and insurance information. We strongly encourage you to delete this link from your calendar if you are concerned about access to your information.

13. Does this vaccine have the mercury-based preservative called thimerosal?

- Yes. Multi-dose vials have a small amount of thimerosal to prevent contamination and growth of potentially harmful bacteria. We will have a limited supply of thimerosal preservative-free vaccine available upon request for anyone who is allergic, pregnant or breastfeeding. High-dose Quadrivalent vaccine for people ≥ 65 also comes as single dose thimerosal preservative-free.

13. What type of flu vaccine am I getting?

- For 2021, we will have quadrivalent and quadrivalent high-dose for anyone age 65 or older. We will also have thimerosal-free quadrivalent for anyone who is allergic, pregnant or breast-feeding.
- For 2020-2021, quadrivalent (four-component) egg-based vaccines, which protect against a second lineage of B viruses, contain:
 - A/Guangdong-Maonan/SWL1536/2019 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus (updated)
 - A/Hong Kong/2671/2019 (H3N2)-like virus (updated)
 - B/Washington/02/2019 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus (updated)
 - B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (Yamagata lineage) virus.
- The **High-dose Quadrivalent**, recommended for people ≥ 65 protects against the same four kinds of flu viruses as Quadrivalent vaccine. The high-dose contains 4 times the amount of antigen contained in the Quadrivalent shot.

14. Who is administering the vaccines?

- VT Registered Pharmacists or Pharmacy Interns who are employed by Kinney Drugs will be administering all vaccines.

15. Where else can I get a shot for myself or my family?

- You and any family members under your plan can get flu shots at any pharmacy that accepts your State of Vermont Express Scripts insurance card (the State's pharmacy vendor). Be sure to bring your card with you! Check with the pharmacy first if you have children as they may need to be vaccinated at their doctor's office.
- You can contact your PCP about getting a shot. The shot is 100% covered by your State insurance. However, some providers charge for the administration of the shot. You should check ahead of any appointment.

16.If I am over age 65, should I be getting a high-dose flu shot?

- Human immune defenses become weaker with age, which places older people at greater risk of severe illness from influenza. Also, ageing decreases the body's ability to have a good immune response after getting influenza vaccine. A higher dose of antigen in the vaccine is supposed to give older people a better immune response, and therefore, better protection against flu.

Fluzone High-Dose is four-component (quadrivalent) inactivated flu vaccine, manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur Inc. and is licensed specifically for people 65 years and older. Fluzone High-Dose vaccine contains four times the amount of antigen (the part of the vaccine that prompts the body to make antibody) contained in regular flu shots (quadrivalent). The additional antigen is intended to create a stronger immune response (more antibody) in the person getting the vaccine and therefore, better protection against flu.

If you still have questions as to whether you should receive the High-dose, you should contact your primary provider. If there is a supply issue, you can also check with local pharmacies or your doctor's office as to availability. The most important thing is to get a shot so we strongly suggest that you do not delay. Anything is better than nothing.

17.Does the CDC recommend one vaccine above another for people 65 and older?

- The CDC and its Advisory Committee have not expressed a preference for any flu vaccine indicated for people 65 and older. CDC recommends flu vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against the flu.

18.Where can I find more information?

- Contact LiveWell Vermont State Employees Wellness Program at DHR.LiveWellVermont@vermont.gov or call 802-828-7308 or visit <http://humanresources.vermont.gov/flu-program>
- Contact Vermont Department of Health Immunization Program at 802-951-1234 or 800-464-4343 or visit <http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/index.aspx> or www.flu.gov.